



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

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CONTACT: MARILYN ELAM  
615.532.8675 (OFFICE)  
615.969.2619 (CELL)

## **TENNCARE NAMES CHIEF PHARMACY OFFICER**

### **PHARMACY DIRECTOR WILL OVERSEE \$2.1 BILLION PHARMACY PROGRAM**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- TennCare officials today announced that David Beshara has joined the Bureau as Chief Pharmacy Officer.

Beshara will report directly to TennCare Deputy Commissioner, J.D. Hickey, and manage the Bureau's \$2.1 billion pharmacy program. He began work at the Bureau on Monday of this week. Beshara replaces Leo Sullivan, the previous pharmacy director, who resigned in January 2004.

As Chief Pharmacy Officer, Beshara will lead the TennCare pharmacy program, which is the largest budget component of the \$8 billion TennCare program. He is tasked with managing pharmaceutical costs by implementing pharmacy-related reform initiatives, including the use of therapeutically comparable lowest cost drugs and expansion of the Bureau's current Preferred Drug List (PDL). Beshara will also manage the Bureau's relationship with the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) First Health Services.

"TennCare's pharmacy budget is the single largest driver of cost growth in the program and requires the attention of a well-trained highly experienced pharmacy executive," said TennCare Director, J.D. Hickey. "Dave's wide range of experience with pharmacy claims analysis, drug trend management and drug formularies will help address the growing pharmacy utilization and cost growth challenges."

Beshara's experience includes managing pharmacy programs for government and private companies. For the past nine years he has served as director of account management, clinical account executive and manager of formulary operations for Medco Health Solutions. He also served in a management capacity for a high-volume retail pharmacy for three years.

Beshara, 35, received an MBA in finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University after completing his bachelors degree from the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy.

TennCare is Tennessee's managed care insurance program for 1.3 million people who are poor, disabled or uninsured.

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STATE CAPITOL, 1ST FLOOR  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243  
615.741.2401